

Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: May 17, 2010

Institution: Miami University

Nature of request: Initial authorization to offer a graduate-level program at a zoological park in Washington State

Program to be offered:

Master of Arts in Teaching with a concentration in Biological Sciences (for certified teachers only) or Master of Arts in Zoology (for non-teachers)

NOTE: The MAT program is not intended to be a teacher certification or licensure program.

Washington site where the program will be offered:

Woodland Park Zoo
5500 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5897

Background:

Miami University is a public state-supported institution based in Oxford, Ohio. It was established in 1809. It has been accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools-Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC) since 1913. The Master of Arts in Teaching program is NCATE-certified.

The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) masters degree program to be offered is part of the Dragonfly Project, which was started by Miami University over a decade ago. The Dragonfly Project “promotes inquiry-driven reform, reaching millions of people worldwide through learning media, exhibits, and education program.”

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to offer degree programs in Washington State, the Higher Education Coordinating Board/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as institutional infrastructure, financial solvency, administrative staff qualifications, program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The institution and its program appear to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the program can be found at the end of this notice and at the [Project Dragonfly website](#).

Timeline:

The HECB will accept comments on this application until June 1, 2010.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: <mailto:DegreeAuthorization@hecb.wa.gov>.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, the statute is RCW 28B.85 and the regulation is WAC 250-61. They can both be found at the following link: [Statutes and Regulations](#).

Program Title:

Master of Arts in Teaching with a concentration in Biological Sciences
(for certified teachers only)

Master of Arts in Zoology (for non-teachers)

NOTE: The MAT program is not intended to be a teacher certification or licensure program.

Program Outcomes:

“AIP Master’s are expected to develop the skills of investigation, critical reflection, leadership, and collaboration required to effectively address the vital issues of our time. AIP Master’s candidates will use inquiry not only as a tool for integrated learning, but as a powerful agent for student achievement, public engagement in science, and ecological stewardship.”

Number of Credits: 35 semester credits

Mode of Delivery:

“Web learning communities with Miami faculty and face-to-face interactions and experiences with local facilitators at the Woodland Park Zoo. All courses include a web component overseen by faculty with graduate standing at Miami University.”

Required Courses: (20 credits total)

ZOO/BOT 699.T	Conservation Science and Community (CSC).....	2
ZOO/BOT 699.Y	Biology in the Age of Technology (BAT).....	2
ZOO/BOT 699.Z	Issues in Biodiversity (IBD)	2
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Issues in Evolution (IEV).....	2
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Leadership in Science Inquiry (LSI).....	2
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Professional Media Workshop (PMW).....	2
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Master’s Capstone (CAP)	2
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Conservation: Seattle (CS).....	3
ZOO/BOT/MBI 699.X	Foundations of Advanced Inquiry (FAI)	3

Elective Courses: (up to 22 credits)

ZOO 694	Zoo Expedition: Habitats, Adaptation and Evolution: Earth Expeditions.....	3
ZOO 696	Zoo Expedition: Primate Behavior and Conservation: Earth Expeditions.....	3
ZOO 721	Graduate Research II.....	1-12
ZOO 710	Advanced Seminar	1-4
ZOO/BOT/GLG/X	Earth Expeditions/Field Course	7

Graduation Requirements:

- Master Plan (completion and approval by AIP Graduate Committee)
- Exit Courses (completion of Master's Capstone and Leadership in Science Inquiry courses)
- ePortfolio (completion of a teaching or work portfolio approved by AIP Graduate Committee)